

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
PANAMA BUREAU
DRAWER 927
APO MIAMI 34004

6 September 1985
MPA-5036

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report — Panama Bureau — August 1985

I. GENERAL

August saw the completion of several major renovation and construction projects. Within the Operations Building, a contractor completed work on the editorial desk which now provides for four comfortable work stations (three editors and a monitor supervisor) and an enlarged Lazy Susan for files and reference materials. The shop and storage areas have undergone a complete renovation. Other completed projects awaiting only the arrival of carpeting are a separate office for the bureau's ROSET engineer and a separate room — across the hall from the editorial room — for teleprinters. On Ft. Clayton, the screened porches for the six FBIS houses were completed.

The technical problems which haunted the ROSET's during July and early August seem to have disappeared with the cleaning and rebuilding of the rectifier assemblies of the motor controller of both antennas, the installation of air conditioners in the bases of the antennas, and the replacement of a motor controller board. Preventive maintenance — consisting of complete lubrication of all grease fittings, gears, and gear boxes as well as touch up painting of rust spots on exposed ferrous metal surfaces — was performed during the month on the antennas.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

Coverage efforts during August revolved primarily around Nicaragua with no indications that substantive change in the Central American situation was likely.

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Relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua continued strained, with border incidents and protest notes being dispatched in both directions. Attacks by the Honduran-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and the much-weakened Costa Rican-based Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) continued, including the "kidnapping" of members of a U.S. Christian peace group by ARDE. During the incident that lasted just over 24 hours, the bureau maintained a round-the-clock watch on Nicaraguan transmitters and on the Managua ANN and Havana PRENSA LATINA circuits available via ROSET. Several flash messages were filed in conjunction with the incident.

As the month drew to a close, Costa Rican President Monge reiterated that talks with Nicaragua could not be held until the Nicaraguan Government had apologized for the June attack on a civil guard patrol at Las Crucitas. In the meantime more border violations and attacks by troops for the Sandinist Peoples Army (EPS) persisted.

Peace-seeking efforts by the Contadora Group also continued, joined this month by the personal efforts of Panama Defense Forces commander in chief General Manuel A. Noriega and former president of Costa Rica Jose Figueres. During the month General Noriega visited both Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and met with Presidents Monge and Ortega to offer Panama as a venue for a "dialogue," which Noriega described as "the best weapon." Both presidents declined to accept the Noriega offer. Former president Figueres tried to lead a "peace mission" into Nicaragua on 30 August, but the Costa Rica Government barred the majority of its members from leaving Costa Rica because "their papers were not in order." Figueres was allowed to travel to Nicaragua, however, and while there he met with President Daniel Ortega and several members of the Sandinist cabinet.

Nicaragua's relations with Honduras also remained strained with a report of an EPS attack on Choluteca on 16 August. The ongoing conflict with Nicaragua was exacerbated toward the end of the month by a confusing incident at the Colomocagua refugee camp where soldiers reportedly went to seek guerrillas who had sought sanctuary by hiding among the refugees. Three persons were killed in the ensuing clash between troops and alleged guerrillas.

In El Salvador, the rebels sustained attacks on strategic targets and chose 13 August to publicize a meeting held in June that witnessed a new agreement on unity and military strategy among the major anti-government factions. The results of the meeting were outlined in a message read during a joint transmission by the two rebel clandestine transmitters Radio Venceremos and Farabundo Marti. Not to be outdone,

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the Salvadoran administration soon had an announcement of its own: At a press conference 2 weeks later President Duarte announced that three of the guerrillas who had participated in the June 1985 Zona Rosa massacre had been apprehended. President Duarte attributed success in apprehending the criminals to U.S. training and advice. The following day, the president told a newsman that no talks with the rebels was possible before October.

Guatemala, recently the least troubled of the five Central American nations, heated up late in August after the government approved a 50 percent hike in bus fares, from 10 to 15 cents. Popular protests followed, with the government arresting scores of persons after some 13 public and private vehicles had been set on fire on city streets.

In Panama, strikes were held throughout the month by workers of both the public and private sectors to secure hikes in pay and benefits, express discontent with the deteriorating economic situation, and protest the "kidnapping" of outspoken opposition leader Dr. Mauro Zuniga. Dr. Zuniga, who was severely beaten by his unidentified captors, and then released, is a leader of the opposition Coordinating Board for National Civilianization, COCINA; vice president of the Popular Action Party; and president of the Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Fund. Opposition to the year-old administration of President Nicolas Ardito Barletta seems to be gaining momentum, and rumors of a coup are already circulating.

At the beginning of the month guerrilla-government relations seemed to be moving ahead in at least one Latin American country, when both the Columbian Government and the 19 April Movement, M-19, appeared willing to discuss the terms for a resumption of the talks broken in June when the M-19 returned underground. By the end of August, however, the government had launched a major drive against the insurgents, raiding several guerrilla hideouts and killing Ivan Mariano Espino, one of the top M-19 leaders, in a clash.

B. Communications

In a major upgrade of bureau backup communications, INTEL installed new Telex equipment, the Oki model T-100.

There was considerable activity and several promises by the Army in August suggesting that the long-awaited Mode I circuit would be installed and activated in the near future.

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C. Technical

During the month the bureau procured locally two air conditioners (National, Model CW-120P, 1300 BTU-208-V, Serial Nos: 0381-50025 and 0381-49979. Unit Price: \$419.00) and one Canon Copier (Model NP-200, Serial No. 8-0100116 w/2 cassettes legal and letter size. Unit Price: \$2,800.00, with trade in for old Canon NP-200).

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

There was a significant changeover in staff editorial personnel in August. On the 2d, [] departed for Washington after completion of her two-year tour. [] who replaced her, arrived on the 21st [] after an assignment in Vienna and home leave. [] filling a new editorial slot, arrived from Washington on the 29th.

The new staff part-time secretary [] entered on duty on 5 August.

TDY editorial trainee [] departed Panama on the 16th after a three-month TDY.

[] chief of the Communications Section, was promoted to FBN 7/8 on 4 August. On the same date, his brother, cruising monitor [] received a PSI (to 9/8).

Monitor Supervisor [] returned from a two-month TDY in Key West on 6 August.

Our newest monitor, [] resigned effective COB 13 August. We have selected [] as her replacement and have begun pre-employment processing.

Both [] gave birth to girls during August. []

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B. Building and Grounds

STAT Courtesy of the Program Development Group, a simplex lock has been added to the door of the bureau chief's office. On another security matter, the first steps were taken to install grillwork at the entrances of the apartments of editors [redacted] in downtown Panama City.

A contractor completed the third cutting this year of the antenna field.

IV. VISITS

STAT The chief of the newly created Engineering Support Group, [redacted] visited Panama 27-29 August for a first-hand acquaintance with bureau operations, including ROSET operations. During the course of the visit he, the bureau chief, and deputy chief met with Frnak Santomenno, general manager and executive vice president of INTERCOMSA, to discuss the INTERNET project.

Other visitors to the bureau during the month were Chris Leibengood, RSO and acting embassy administrative counselor, on 9 August; Lt. Col. Frank Feild, SOUTHCOM's public affairs officer, who accompanied Art Skop, the U.S. embassy press officer in Tegucigalpa, on 9 August; and Sigrid Maitrejean, Terence Kneebone, and Cynthia Farrell of USIS, Panama, on 14 August.

STAT The bureau chief was in Managua 21-23 August to interview candidates to replace the FBIS press contractor there. [redacted] was selected; after a week of working with the present contractor, she will assume full responsibility on 9 September.

STAT [redacted]
Chief, Panama Bureau, FBIS

Attachment:
Production Report

Panama Bureau Production Report for August 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	490630
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	21070
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1266

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	11065.00 min.	42090.00 min.	205.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish	6200
Buenos Aires REUTER in English	620

CLANDESTINES

Clandestine Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	6240
Clandestine Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	28730
Clandestine Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua	0

COLOMBIA

Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	1290
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	0
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	2870
Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish	250
Bogota Television Service in Spanish	2040
Bogota REUTER in English	1020
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish	4450
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish	6560

COSTA RICA

San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	7290
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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	12040		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			5460
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1730
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			3590
San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish			0
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			0
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			3170
CUBA			
Havana International Service in Quechua	690		
Havana International Service in Spanish	61710		
Havana International Service in English	0		
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	10880		
Havana EFE in Spanish		410	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in English		8930	
Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		12970	
Havana GRANMA in Spanish			250
ECUADOR			
Quito Domestic Service in Spanish	17150		
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	580		
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	2920		
Quito REUTER in Spanish		560	
EL SALVADOR			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	3310		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	740		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	1930		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	12270		
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			0
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			3150
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			3290
San Salvador EL TIEMPO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			3490
San Salvador ORIENTACION in Spanish			660
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		2480	
Paris AFP in Spanish		21490	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		7220	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	3100		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	330		
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	2740		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			910
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1490
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	2780		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	1600		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	310		
Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish	1860		
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			570
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			2180
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			1310
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1910
MEXICO			
Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3160		
Mexico CityXHDF Television Network in Spanish	3220		
Mexico City REUTER in English		2340	
Mexico ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		230	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			890
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			1180
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			320
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			560
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			1370
NICARAGUA			
Managua International Service in Spanish	420		
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	23440		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	5560		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	39960		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	1990		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Managua ANN in Spanish		12300	
Managua ANN in English		1770	
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish		570	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			8000
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			4410
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			4260
PANAMA			
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	3130		
Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish	3100		
Panama City PANAVISION in Spanish	1420		
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	1400		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		21310	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			390
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			0
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			930
Panama City EXTRA in Spanish			1440
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			7850
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			6640
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			0
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			1710
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			0
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			280
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			2000
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
PERU			
Lima REUTER in Spanish		250	
SPAIN			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		19350	
VENEZUELA			
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	340		
Caracas Television Service in Spanish	6760		
Caracas REUTER in English		3320	
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			710
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			630

PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR AUGUST 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES:

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires REUTER in English	620
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COLOMBIA

Bogota Television Service in Spanish	2,040
Bogota REUTER in English	1,020

CUBA

Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	12,970
Havana EFE in Spanish	410

ECUADOR

Quito REUTER in Spanish	560
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MEXICO

Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish	3,160
Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish	3,220
Mexico City REUTER in English	2,340
Mexico City NEFOPRENSA in Spanish	230

NICARAGUA

Managua ANN in Spanish	12,300
Managua ANN in English	1,770
Managua PRENSA LATINA in Spanish	570

PERU

Lima REUTER in Spanish	250
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SPAIN

Madrid EFE in Spanish	1,120
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VENEZUELA

Caracas Television Service in Spanish	6,760
Caracas REUTER in English	3,320

TOTAL FOR AUGUST 1985

52,660